Printing of polymer based currency notes

327. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start a pilot project to print currency notes made to polymers instead of paper;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be printed; and

(c) what would be the cost of polymer currency in comparison with paper currency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Exploring scientific alternatives for increasing the life of Indian Bank Notes, is a continuous process undertaken by the RBI and the Government. As part of this exercise, RBI is at present evaluating various options for increasing the life of currency notes, including printing on polymer substrate. The cost and life of polymer currency in comparison with paper currency will be available on completion of the above said exercise.

Inflation rate

†328. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite increasing growth rate inflation could not be curbed;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action to check inflation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Sir, the year-on-year inflation based on wholesale price index has declined during the recent months of current financial year, 2007-08 as indicated in the Table below:

Table: Monthly WP1 based inflation (%) during recent months of 2007-08

Month/year	WPI based monthly inflation (%)
April, 2007	6.28
May, 2007	5.46
June, 2007*	4.43
July, 2007*	4.41

* Provisional

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.